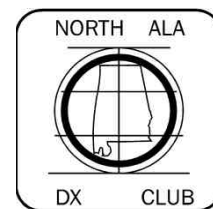


# The LongPath



A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President's Desk

### A Good Season for DXing

Well, here we are just past the autumnal (fall) equinox. So what, you ask? For those interested in getting more DX mileage out of their on-the-air operating time, the fall equinox represents the beginning of a period when more favorable HF propagation conditions will exist. As we move into the winter months we should see better daytime HF propagation than we've experienced during the summer. (It also means we can divert all that time we've been spending mowing lawns, tending flower beds, pulling weeds, etc. into more enjoyable pursuits!) Because seasonal variation is one of several important variables that influences HF propagation, it might be well to consider what changes we are likely to see for the next several months.

During the period around each equinox (both spring and fall) the sun illuminates the northern and southern hemispheres an equal amount. This means generally constant levels of daylight ionization and generally higher usable frequencies. The fall equinox also is the harbinger of better daytime propagation during winter months in the northern hemisphere. The F2 layer of the ionosphere tends to expand and become less dense due to solar heating during the summer months, but then contracts during the colder months and becomes more dense. In addition, the earth is actually closer to the sun during the winter than it is during the summer, which increases the daytime ionization level in the F2 layer. These characteristics combine to make the higher frequency HF bands (14 MHz and up) more usable during the daytime than they are



during the summer. The net result should be generally better long distance propagation for the next several months.

The lower frequency bands (160 through 40 meters) should also benefit from better winter conditions due to longer periods of darkness when D-layer absorption is absent for longer periods and the high nighttime static levels that existed during the summer months on these bands is no longer a problem. Forty meters should provide decent openings all night during the winter.

*(continued on page 3)*

October 14th Program  
**"Contesting Software Review"**  
by *Tim Pearson, KU4J*

7PM At Ryan's Steak House  
1808 University Drive  
Huntsville, AL

Volume 27, Issue 10  
The LongPath

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## "Short Skip" ...

**Bill Gerth, W4RK**

•**Most Wanted**...You still have an opportunity to have input into the "most wanted" list for 2003 sponsored by DX Magazine. The deadline is October 15th so there is still time to have your needs included in the statistics that form part of the basis for DXpeditions selecting destinations. The URL for the online survey form is: [www.dxpub.com/dx\\_survey2003.html](http://www.dxpub.com/dx_survey2003.html)



•**NADXC Receives YASME Book**. . . . Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, NADXC and other ARRL DX clubs have received a copy of the newly published book "YASME--The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions." This is a fascinating account of the DXpedition sailing voyages of the various YASME vessels in both the Atlantic and Pacific. Having personally met Danny Weil in the Virgin Islands in 1956, this was truly a walk down memory lane for me. Myron, W4UR, has the book so ask him to let you have it for a very interesting read.

•**Sound Card Fundamentals**. . . .The computer sound card forms the basis for many amateur signal processing implementations, including RTTY and PSK31. For a nice tutorial on sound cards and how to use them in amateur applications, I highly recommend an article in the October 2003 issue of QST (page 33) written by Del Schier, K1UHF. From the basic block diagram to software control through Windows control panels, this article is one of the best I've seen on this subject.

•**Earthlink - ARRL Forwarding Problem**. . . . If you are using Earthlink, as I am, for your ISP, you are likely experiencing long delays (including infinite) if you are using the ARRL forwarding service. The ability to use an e-mail address such as: [w4rk@arrl.net](mailto:w4rk@arrl.net) is very convenient. Unfortunately ARRL and Earthlink do not seem to be able to work out an issue related to Earthlink's very aggressive "spam-fighting" policies. Since Earthlink is #2 in users behind AOL, it is not impressed with ARRL members' numbers in the grand scheme of things. I have mixed emotions because by using Earthlink's Spam Blocker tools, I now do not even see approximately 200 spam messages per day that I would otherwise have to wade through to find the few messages that I really care about. According to ARRL's CFO, they are still trying to come to some understanding with Earthlink that would solve the problem for everyone.

•**Give Something Back?**...As beneficiaries of amateur radio, some of us for several sunspot cycles, I'd like to suggest that each of us consider a way to give something back to this great hobby. How about getting involved in Elmering some younger person to expand our ranks and extend our

*(continued on page 6)*

## Minutes of September 9th Meeting

**Bill Gerth, W4RK**

The regular monthly meeting, held at Ryan's Steakhouse in Huntsville, was called to order by President Myron Manker, W4UR, at 7:03 PM. There were 20 members and 3 visitors in attendance. W4UR welcomed members and visitors and noted that the September 2003 Long Path was now online.

The Minutes of the August 12, 2003 regular meeting were accepted without additions or corrections.

The recent news of the excellent showing in the CQ WW CW DX Contest by Tom Russell, N4KG, was announced.

Bill Gerth, W4RK, presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Nancy Morris. The current bank balance is \$3,095.16. An anticipated loss on the DX Banquet at the Huntsville HamFest was turned into a modest gain through the negotiation by W4UR with Von Braun Center management related to concerns about substandard table service.

President Manker reported on the resolution of an outstanding issue of unfinished business related to the NADXC financial support of various DXpeditions. The recommendation of the Board of Directors was to include a miscellaneous expense line item in the 2004 Budget to be used for DXpedition support in addition to other applications. Additional voluntary contributions will be solicited from members for requests directed to the President.

President Manker reported on the NADXC participation in the recent Huntsville Hamfest. The general feeling was that the club was well represented by our booth and there was excellent support from members in putting up the booth and manning it throughout the event. The checking of QSL cards for

DXCC awards by Mike Maples, K4ADK, and Jimmy Long, W4ZRZ, was a big positive for the club and the Hamfest in general. There were a number of booth visitors who filled out "interest cards" that resulted in a personal letter from our President and a complimentary copy of the recently updated DX-101 brochure by Chuck Lewis, N4NM. At least one of these interest cards has resulted in a new member.

President Manker also reported on the DX Banquet that was extremely successful again this year. The program presented by Bernie McLenny, W3UR, was well received and many favorable comments were heard. The ARRL President, the ARRL Southeastern Division Director, and the IARU President attended the banquet as guests of NADXC.

The Nominating Committee announced their recommended slate of nominees for 2004: President, Tim Pearson, KU4J; Vice-President, Barry Johnson, W4WB; Sec-Treas., Vic Holland, K4RVH, and Directors: Chris Reed, KF4MMF, and Tom Duncan, KG4CUY. Check the NADXC web site for further details. The election will take place at the October 14 meeting.

President Manker reported on the NADXC Board of Directors meeting held on September 9, 2003. In addition to other items reported separately here, there were two other matters of note. One is the selection of a new venue for our annual Christmas Party to encourage greater participation with a more relaxed atmosphere. Based upon several favorable recommendations, the party will be held on December 9 at the Greenbrier Restaurant at Exit 3 and Interstate-565. In addition, the Board decided there would be two awards presented at the Christmas Party: the DXer of the Year Award and the

*(continued on page 6)*

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## From the President's Desk ...cont'd

There's a good reason why you'll see more DX contests and many DXpeditions scheduled during the period from October to March. Propagation conditions are generally better then.

Another variable that influences propagation, but doesn't represent a seasonal change, is the solar/sunspot cycle. We're now past the best years of HF propagation conditions during the current cycle, and conditions will generally continue to diminish for the next few years until we reach the expected bottom of the current cycle which should occur around 2006-2007. Before then, we still have time to add some much needed new entities in our logs.

So here we are on the doorstep of better DXing conditions. Why not plan to take advantage of the upcoming good season for DXing and stay alert for opportunities to increase your DXCC totals before next spring. Good hunting.

73,  
Myron, W4UR

## ARRL DX Bulletin

*Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ*

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, 425DXnews, DXNL, WA7BNM and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

**KENYA, 5Z.** Mirko, DJ1AA expects to be QRV as 5Z4/DJ1AA from Nairobi until October 23. Activity is on all HF bands. He plans to be active in the German WAG Contest as well. QSL to home call.

**THE GAMBIA, C5.** Henryk is QRV as C56JHF and has been active on 30 meters between 2200 and 0200z. QSL via SM0JHF.

**SCOTLAND, GM.** Leo, W3LEO will be QRV as MM0LEO from Portpatrick in southwest Scotland from October 13 to November 15. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ WW SSB contest. QSL to home call.

**GUERNSEY ISLAND, GU.** Ron, G4DIY and Lee, G0DBE are QRV as GPO5TH until October 13. They are active on 40 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL via G4DIY.

**THAILAND, HS.** Members of the Chumporn Amateur Radio Society will demonstrate Amateur Radio operations on the 160th anniversary of the Langsuan traditional long boat race. They will be QRV as HS8AC/p on October 11 to 12. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 and 80 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK31. QSL via E21EIC.

**MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0.** Look for KH0/JA1DM, KH0T, KH0V and NH0B to be QRV from Saipan, IOTA OC-086, until October 13. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via JA1DM, JA1SGU, JJ1KZI and JI1JMK, respectively.

**NETHERLANDS, PA.** Martin, VE3MR is active as PA9MR from IOTA EU-146 until October 25. QSL to home call.

**EGYPT, SU.** Tom, SU9NC has been QRV on 160 meters just before 2030z. QSL direct via OM2SA.

**TUVALU, T2.** Willi, DJ7RJ is QRV as T20MW until October 15. Look for activity on 30 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1.** Henrik, OZ6TL will be QRV as ZK1TLA from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, from October 11 to November 6. He plans to be active using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 in his spare time. QSL to home call.



**NEW ZEALAND, ZL.** Chas, ZL3CED is QRV using the special callsign ZL6FF until October 11. He will be an entry in the Oceania DX CW Contest, probably with his home call. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, including 30 meters, using CW. QSL to home call.

**KERMADEC ISLANDS, ZL8.** Jacky, F2CW is QRV as ZM8CW from Raoul Island, IOTA OC-039, until October 18. This is not a DXpedition, so he will operate in his spare time. QSL via ZL1AMO.

The following operations are approved for DXCC credit:  
4W2DN, YA1D, YA0J and YI/KV4EB.

## Other DX Rumors and News

Thanks to the Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society, Northern Ohio DX Association, Ohio/Penn PacketCluster Network, AB5K & the AR TelNet Clusters Network, K1RV, K1XN & GoList, NG3K, W3UR & The Daily DX, N4AA & QRZ DX, N4GN, K7BV, K8YSE, N8MR, 9V1PC, CE6TBN, CT1END, E21EIC, F5NQL & UFT, G3AB, GW0ANA, JI6KVR & JA-IOTA Islands News, LU5WW, ON5NT and VA3RJ & ICPO for the following DX information.

### DXPEDITION WINNER IS ANNOUNCED!

The ARRL Letter reports that Daniel Bradke, W2AU, a 14 year old from Niskayuna, New York, will operate as part of the VP5X Contest Group during the CQ World-Wide CW Contest (November 29-30th). Bradke was the winner of a competition sponsored by the VP5X Contest Group headed by David Kopacz, KY1V. According to the VP5X Contest Group's Web site, "Daniel's essay, operating skills and enthusiasm have moved our contest team to select him to be our first annual VP5X Young Ham Team Member." Daniel, an Extra Class license holder, will receive an all expenses paid trip to Turks and Caicos Island (VP5) for the contest. More details are available via the ARRL Letter (Vol. 22, No. 39) this week or the VP5X Contest Group's Web site at: <http://www.vp5x.com/>

### LOTW A HIT!

The ARRL Letter reports this week that the "Logbook of the World" (LoTW), the League's new QSL-cardless awards and contact credit system, has proven to be a huge hit with the amateur community. Since opening September 15th, LoTW has acquired more than 2200 registered participants. Another 2400 or so applications are pending, and the QSO database of 4900 uploaded logs had topped 8 million contacts at week's end. For more details, please visit the ARRL Web Page at: <http://www.arrl.org> Also, news and announcements will be posted to the Logbook of the World Web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>

### 3C0, ANNOBON ISLAND

3C0V is now active until October 10th on all HF bands 160-6 meters on CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK/SSTV. QSL via DJ9ZB.

### 4W3, TIMOR LESTE

Peter, 4W3CW, is expected to be active in this year's CQWW CW Contest as a Single-Op/Low Power entry. QSL via the address on [QRZ.com](http://www.qrz.com).

### 5U, NIGER

Fred, G4BWP (ex-XT2WP), will be active as 5U7WP some days before and after the next CQWW CW Contest (November 29-30th). Activity will be on the HF bands and

## Frank McGonigal, W6DSQ

mainly on CW. During the contest, Fred will sign 5U7A or 5U5A (the callsign has not been issued to date). QSL via G4BWP, direct or via the bureau.

### 5Z, KENYA

Mirko, DJ1AA, is expected to be active from Nairobi now through October 23rd. He will sign 5Z4/DJ1AA (or possibly 5Z4\*\*); still waiting for license). He also plans to be active in the German WAG Contest (October 18-19th). Activity will be on all HF bands. QSL via DJ1AA (DARC bureau).

### 9H, MALTA (C5 Cancelled!)

Holger/DL5XAT and Matthias/DL5OB have cancelled their C5 (The Gambia) operation scheduled for October 21st to November 2nd. They will now be active from Gozo Island ([EU-023](http://www.eu-023.com)) from October 20-30th. Activity should include the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th). Contest callsign was not mentioned. However, outside of the contest look for 9H3SB (DL5XAT) and 9H3UD (DL5OB). QSL via the bureau or direct via home callsign.

### AH2, GUAM

Members of the Guam Contest Club will be on the air during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest SSB at the end of this month. Look for operators JI3ERV/NH2C, JR7OMD/WI3O, JP1JFG/N2IU, JG3RPL/N1BJ, JH7QXJ, JR8VSE/NH2N and JE8KKX/AH2K to activate AH2R from Guam Island (KH2, Zone 27, IOTA [OC-26](http://www.iaea.org)) as a Multi-Op/2TX entry. QSL via JH7QXJ (Direct or JA bureau, NOT the KH2 bureau).

### BQ9P, PRATAS ISLAND (Update)

As this was being typed, operators BV4FH, BV3FG, BV3BW, DL3DXX, DK7YY, JI6KVR, ZL4PO, OE1WHC and N2OO are gathering in Taipei and expect to be on Pratas Island around noontime (1200 local time) October 7th. Paul, BV4FH, states they should have 5-6 hours before dark (sunset is 1820 local time) to set up antenna(s). They will first set up the low band antenna (depending the location difficulty). They will be aided by 3-4 soldiers to help put up the V80. The team hopes to set up at least 1 yagi before dark (one of the C3S for 10/15/20m) and if the moonlight is good, they will be able to set up the second yagi after dinner and rest. Remember activity will last until 0100z, October 16th. Operations will be on 160-6 meters including the WARC bands on CW/SSB/RTTY/SSTV/PSK31. Frequencies will be in most DX windows (+/- QRM). Pilot stations: Floyd/N5FG (Eastern USA) and Lee/ZL2AL (ZL/VK). QSL via KU9C. The BQ9P's Web site is at: <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/newpage64.htm>

### CU2, AZORES

Ingo, DH5ST, will be on holiday from Sao Miguel, Azores  
(continued on page 7)

## "Short Skip" ...cont'd

influence into the future? Or how about getting involved in your local ARES group? I was quite surprised to find that my tax dollars in my county had funded 4 new linked amateur repeaters, 2 VHF and 2 UHF so that any part of the county can be worked with a handheld. Surprise surprise again to find that those same tax dollars had funded a complete VHF, UHF, HF amateur station in the 911 center. Attending some meetings and checking into the weekly ARES net expanded my circle of ham friends. I'm sure there are many other ways to give something back if we but give it a bit of thought.

•**LOTW Off to a Good Start**...According to reports from the ARRL website and an article in the October 2003 QST (page 46) the Logbook of the World is off to a flying start with participation well ahead of expectations. This system, featuring an electronic database, promises to facilitate confirmation of DXCC entities without the requirement for paper QSLs. There is still something magic about those QSL cards with beautiful photos of far off places, but maybe the LOTW convenience will lure some of the uncooperative DX stations to participate.

•**NADXC Needs You!** . . . The success of NADXC depends upon the enthusiastic support of members. In my opinion, the best part about NADXC is the fellowship with fellow DXers. The more the merrier! Come on out and join us at Ryan's Steak House, second Tuesday, 1800 or so for dinner, 1900 for the meeting. The meeting will be better if YOU are there!

**73 es gud DX . . . . de W4RK**

## September 9th Meeting Minutes ...cont'd

President's (Reasoner) Award. Chuck Lewis, N4NM, and Nancy Morris, K4JD, will draft award criteria to assist in the selection of recipients.

Alan Clark, N5PA, was accepted as a new member upon a motion made by Ed Clark, K4KFH, and seconded by Tim Pearson, KU4J.

President Manker reported that approximately a dozen NADXC members had filed formal comments with the FCC related to the BPL issue. There were approximately 4,500 total comments filed during the comment periods with approximately 90% opposed to unrestricted use of this technology.

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY, reported on the sale of several pieces of ham equipment from the estate of Dr. John Fox, WB2LLB. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase a projector for use by all of the ham organizations in the Huntsville area.

Chuck Lewis, N4NM presented an excellent program, on hamshack design covering many of the principles he used in his 30-year career with NASA. His common-sense approach, based on sound theory, gave us many valuable ideas to apply in our individual hamshacks. Following Chuck's program, Barry Johnson, W4WB gave a brief demonstration of a system for recording RF for later playback using a VCR. He used this RF source to demonstrate a new internal audio DSP unit for the FT-817.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Gerth, **W4RK**  
Acting Secretary

## Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

(**EU-003**), between November 9-23rd. He will sign CU2/DH5ST/p and be active 80-10 meters CW/SSB. QSL via address on **QRZ.com**. Members from the Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club (DL0DLH) will be operating from the Acores, October 9-12th, under the callsign CU2L. Activity will be on HF bands (160 meters included) on SSB, CW and PSK. Operators are: DL1FDS, DK7TF, DG5FCN, DL4FP and DK7PE. QSL via DL4FP.

### FK, NEW CALEDONIA (IOTA Op)

Yoshi, JA7AQR, will be active from Male Island (OC-033) from New Caledonia, October 2-6th. He will operate as FK/JA7AQR on 40-10 meters SSB and RTTY. QSL via JARL or direct to his home address at: Yoshihiro Tanaka, 1-10-6 Minamihara, Yamagata, 990-2413 JAPAN.

### FR/E, EUROPA

It was announced this past week that the world's number 6th most wanted entity (Europe 10th and U.S 6th), Europa Island (IOTA **AF-009**) would be active between November 22nd and December 5th. A team of eight French military operators also plan to operate in the CQ World-Wide CW DX Contest during the last weekend of November. They report that it was a difficult project to secure permission to go to this rare island, however thanks to the persistence of Didier, F5OGL, and his team, they did receive the "OK" from the general headquarters to go. The team hopes to have three stations active on 160-6 meters on CW, SSB and the digital modes. The team members for this operation include: Didier/F5OGL, Dany/F5CW, Eric/ F5JJK, Stephane/F5KIN, Freddy/F5IRO, David/F0CRS, Chris/TU5AX and possibly another operator. The callsign will not be announced until the operation begins. QSL cards will be handled by F5OGL and may be sent via the bureau or direct to: Didier Senmartin, P.O. Box 7, 53320 Loiron, France. ADDED NOTE: It was also announced: "Be aware of the possibility that the operation could be cancelled if the international situation were to unfold, as these operators would have to all go on active duty because of their military jobs."

### HK0, SAN ANDRES ISLAND

Seven members of the Florida DXpedition Group will be on San Andres Island October 20-28th. They will be active as a Multi-Two entry in the CQWW Contest. The contest callsign has been put on hold. Originally it was announced to be 5J0J, but it looks to be 5J0X now. They hope to receive a copy of the license soon. Stay tuned. Operators outside of the contest will be active as HK0/N2WB, HK0/KR4DA, HK0/W9AAZ, HK0/K4QD, HK0/N1WON, HK0/W1LR and HK0/W4WX. The team will be on all bands (160-6 meters) and on most modes (CW, RTTY, PSK-31, HELL, SSB) before and after the contest. QSL direct or via the bureau. Logs will also be

available on LoTW. QSL 5J0J via N1WON, HK0/N2WB via N200, and all others via their home callsigns. Please view their Web sites at: <http://www.geocities.com/w4wx1/upcoming>, <http://www.geocities.com/hk02003/>

### HK0, SAN ANDRES ISLAND (Top Band Added)

It was announced this past week that the team members of the Florida DXpedition Group going to San Andres Island DXpedition will be active on 160 meters (1826.5) in a few weeks. The antenna will be a 80/160 vertical, the one used by ZL7C (Chatham Island DXpedition) last October 2002. The operation/DXpedition is scheduled to take place October 20-28th. They will have 8 operators and plan to run 4-5 stations before and after the CQWW Contest (contest callsign will be 5J0J). The San Andres Island DXpedition 2003 Web page is at: <http://www.geocities.com/hk02003/>

### KH0, MARIANA ISLANDS

Look for Takashi, JF1MIA, to be active as KH0A during the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th). Bands of activity were not provided. QSL via JF1MIA.

### LX, LUXEMBOURG

Operator Philippe, LX2AJ, will be active as LX7I in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/Single Band (40m) entry. QSL via LX2AJ.

### OH0, ALAND ISLAND

Marko, OH4JFN, will be active as OH0Z (Zone 15) during the CQWW SSB Contest as a Single-Op/All Band entry. Marko's activity will take place between October 25-28th. QSL via OH5DX. More information concerning OH0Z can be found via the Web page at: <http://www.qsl.net/oh0z>

### PACIFIC OPERATIONS (5W and ZK2)

Anci, JA2ZL, will be active from Niue Island (**OC-040**) as ZK2ZY, October 18-24th. His activity will be on 80-12 meters on SSB/CW/RTTY with 100w with dipoles and a 2 element beam. After Niue Island, Anci will move to Samoa and operate from here as 5W0ZY from October 25-28th. His activities will be only SSB on 75-12 meters, and he hopes to participate in the CQWW DX Phone Contest. QSL to his home callsign via JARL bureau (until July 2004) or direct to his home address: Anci Yamada, 17-8-2 Takirocho, Tajima, 507-0813 JAPAN. Please visit to his Web page at: <http://www4.ocn.ne.jp/~ja2zl>

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## DX Elmer

Tim Pearson, KU4J



### Topic- Progression of Equipment

The DX-Elmer this month is a little off subject but appropriate I think. Ham Radio and specifically DX'ing is a hobby of progressively tweaking and improving our equipment to squeeze every dB out of an antenna or every watt out of our rig and/or amplifier. In general we are never satisfied with what we have and find ourselves drooling over the latest

radio or the whizziest new antenna. This continual strive to improve our station isn't necessarily a bad thing and it's a good way to learn what works and what doesn't.

When we first moved into our house in 1996, I had lost interest in DX'ing but I ended up putting up a 40m dipole in the trees behind my house. It played ok on 40m/15m but any other bands were useless. The antenna peaked my interest enough to go out and buy a new GAP-Challenger sometime later, this peaked my interest even more because I could work 80m-10m including the WARC bands. I began to work some really neat DX and started to get the DX bug again..... and yet something wasn't quite right. Sometime later I ended

up buying an HF5B mini-beam and putting it on the roof and WOW, I was amazed at the stuff I could hear/work on it compared to the vertical. I was bitten by the DX bug even more... and yet something didn't seem quite right. Two weeks ago I finished putting up a HDBX48 self-supporting tower (K4ADK's) and a 2-element quad. The first weekend that I used it was the CQWW-RTTY contest and I managed to work 10!! new countries on RTTY (204) and finish my WAZ-RTTY (HS,V8, YI, 9M2, 9J2, P29, BY, OH0, 4U1ITU, & MD0). I still had the HF5B so I could compare the two antennas and I was amazed at the stuff I could hear on the quad that was weak/inaudible on the HF5B....LIFE IS GOOD....and yet something isn't quite right. I just looked at a website that shows K4JA's contest 'house' in Virginia and I'm starting to think that 40 acres out the in the country.....

You get the picture ;-)

Special thanks to Jason (KD4BJW), Vic( K4RVH), Tom (N4WBS), Tim (N5KI) and Mike (K4ADK) and my wife-Reena and my kids for helping me finally finish my tower project. My wife and I are leaving on a cruise tomorrow to celebrate our 15th wedding anniversary. She has been VERY supportive of my DXing/Contesting quests over the past 15 years and I love her for that.

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Tim/KU4J

## For Sale

Antennas For Sale by Tom Russell - N4KG

GAP Challenger DX Vertical \$200 (\$300 New) covers 80, 40, 20, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2 Meters with excellent SWR Bandwidth on all bands except 80M which is limited to 130 KHz under 2:1 Requires only 3 counterpoise wires 25 ft long.

GAP Voyager DX Vertical \$280 (\$420 New) covers 160 (90 KHz), 80, 40, 20 Meters with FULL Bandwidth under 2:1 SWR. Requires only 3 counterpoise wires 57 ft long run 'to fit'. EXCELLENT DX performer on 80 and 40M.

Contact Tom Russell N4KG at 256-233-1402.



**Congratulations to Steve Werner, AG4W** for receiving the DXCC Challenge Award! Thanks to Michael, KF4BOG for this photo of the award his dad worked very hard to receive.

## V26B DXpedition

Team Antigua will ride once again to activate V26B on the Beautiful Island Nation of Antigua and Barbuda in the 2003 running of the CQWW SSB Contest on October 24th & 25th 2003. Our plans are to enter the Multioperator/Two-transmitter category.

For a complete station description, complete with photographs and Rate charts of The Team Antigua, V26B, Superstation. Please visit our Web Page at: <http://www.frc-contest.org> and click on the DXpeditions page and then the Team Antigua, V26B Link!

Our Grid Square is FK-97 and IOTA Number is NA-100

Members of Team Antigua will also make special attempts to be active on RTTY, PSK31, 160 meters and the WARC Bands a few days both before and after the contest. There is also a possibility of some 6 meter with conditions permit-

ting! Most likely our operators will make their presence felt on all bands starting on or about October 22th until about November 2nd.

The Members of Team Antigua and their Callsigns:

V26B	Sam, WT3Q	QSL Via WT3Q
V26EW	Ed, N2ED	QSL Via N2ED
V26OC	Brian, N3OC	QSL Via N3OC
V26R	Mike, KA2AEV	QSL Via KA2AEV
V26U	Bill, W2UDT	QSL Via W2UDT

As well as a few new members who will announce their QSL routes when their Antiguan Callsigns become finalized.

Mike, **KA2AEV**

## DX Contests for the Coming Month

*Chuck Lewis, N4NM*

### OCEANIA DX CONTEST (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 4, 0800Z to Oct 5, 0800Z  
Exchange: RS plus serial number  
See page 100, Oct. QST

### RSGB 21/28 MHz. CONTEST (SSB), 15-10 meters

Oct 5, 0700Z – 1900Z  
Exchange RS plus serial number  
See page 100, Oct. QST and  
[www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org)

### OCEANIA DX CONTEST (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct. 11, 0800Z to Oct 12, 0800Z  
Exchange: RS plus serial number  
See page 100, Oct. QST

### JARTS RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Oct. 18-19, 0000Z Sat. (Fri. nite) to 2400Z Sun.  
Exchange: RST plus age  
See page 100, Oct. QST

### CQ Worldwide SSB, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Oct. 25-26, 0000Z Sat. (Fri. nite) to 2400Z Sun.  
Exchange: RS & CQ zone  
See page 100, Oct. QST and [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com)

### OTHERS:

TARA PSK31 Rumble, Oct 4, 0000Z - 2400Z

EU Autumn Sprint, (SSB), Oct. 4, 1500Z – 1859Z

Iberoamericano Contest, 2000Z, Oct. 11 – 2000Z, Oct. 12

EU Autumn Sprint, (CW), Oct 11, 1500Z - 1859Z

Worked All Germany Contest (CW/SSB), Oct 18, 1500Z – Oct 19, 1459Z

Asia-Pacific Sprint, (CW), Oct 19, 0000Z - 0200Z

WAE DX Contest, (RTTY) 0000Z, Nov 8 - 2359Z, Nov 9

Japan Intl. DX Contest, (SSB), Nov 8, 2300Z – Nov 9, 2300Z

OK/OM DX Contest, (CW) 1200Z, Nov 8 - 1200Z, Nov 9

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Also, check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have fun!

Chuck, **N4NM**



## Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

### PJ4, NETHERLANDS ANTILLIES (Update OPDX.625)

Uwe, DL9NDS, informs OPDX that the German team going to Bonaire Island (October 16-26th) has received their CQWW DX SSB Contest callsign, PJ4T. QSL Route for PJ4T and all personal callsigns (PJ4/Homecall) is via DL9NDS.

### PZ5, SURINAME

Operators Bob/PZ5JR, John/PZ5DX and Arnold/PZ1AP will be active during the CQWW SSB Contest as PZ5JR from October 20th to November 4th. operators PZ5JR and PZ5DX will be operating in different parts of the country, possibly from the jungle as portable seven. Their bands/modes of activity were not provided.

### UV7, UKRAINE

Look for station UV7M to be active in both CW/SSB CQWW DX Contest as a Multi-Op/All Band entry. Operators for the CW Contest will be: Anatol/UY5LO, Serge/US8MX, Vlad/UX3MX and US5MTJ. Operators for the SSB Contest will be: Valery/UT1ML and Vitaly/US5MTJ. QSL is OK and only via bureau to Vitaly/US5MTJ.

### V26, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Doug, W3CF, informs OPDX that he "blew a callsign" of one of the V26DX operators in last week's announcement and he apologizes to all for the blown call. The correct callsign for Thomas is DF2BO, not DL2BO. Again, look for operators W3CF, WX0B, N5CK, KD3TB, KD3RF, DF2BO and KM9M to activate the Royal Antigua Radio Club Station, V26DX, as a Multi/2/Low Power entry in the CQWW Phone Contest. QSL all V26DX QSOs via KU9C with appropriate return postage and SAE or via the bureau. QSL individual ops via their on air instructions.

### V51, NAMIBIA

Operators Vlado/ZS6MG and Emil/ZS6EGB will be active as V5/ZS6MG and V5/ZS6EGB from Outjo, between October 23-27th. The two operators will also be active in the CQWW SSB Contest as V51E (QSL via ZS6MG, contest only). Activity outside of the contest will be on most HF bands CW/SSB/RTTY and PSK.

### V8, BRUNEI

Kato, JO1RUR, is now here and was active as V8A during the past weekend's RTTY Contest. Outside of the contest, he will sign as V85RH. He was spotted on 40/15 meters RTTY outside of the contest (Thursday/Friday). His length of stay is unknown. QSL via JH7FQK.

### VK9X, CHRISTMAS ISLAND (Also VK9C)

Operators Gerhard/DJ5IW, Thomas/DL2RMC, Hartmut/DM5TI and Andree/DL8LAS are now active from Christmas Island (**OC-002**) as VK9XW until October 11th (before moving to Cocos-Keeling Island as VK9CD between October 11-23rd). Activity will be on all modes, 160 through 6 meters with a focus on the lower and the WARC bands, including operations on **AO-40**. They will have 3 stations on the air. Over the past weekend, they were active on 30/20/15m (Mixed CW/SSB/RTTY). QSL VK9XW via DL2RMC. QSL VK9CD via DJ5IW. Pilot stations are: Floyd, N5FG (NA stations) and Bernd, DF3CB (Rest of the world). Their Web page is at: <http://www.qsl.net/vk9xt>

### XV, VIETNAM

Lee, N5PO, informs OPDX that he plans to operate from Vietnam as XV2PO, November 25th to December 3rd. Activity will be on 40-10 meters (no WARC bands), CW ONLY. He will operate in the CQWW CW Contest as a Single-Op/All Band entry. His plans are to operate from the Kimdo Hotel in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. QSL via N5PO direct or via the Bureau.

### XZ7, MYANMAR

The German team (mentioned in OPDX.619) is now active as XZ7A until October 17th. Bernd, DF3CB, who has E-mail contact with them, states "the team arrived very well. Just the stopover in Bangkok was a little too long. The employees of Myanmar Travel and Tours met them at the airport. Therefore entry including all the equipment was no problem. Nothing got lost this time!" The entire roof is covered with antennas now. The hotel crew gave them a lot of support. The team reports that receiving on 80m is difficult (and worse on 160m). Some interesting pictures are now available on the Web of the XZ7A location and antenna setup at: <http://www.qsl.net/dl7df/xz7a/pictures.html>

Activity over the past weekend covered 80-10 meters (including 30/17 meters) mainly on CW with some RTTY and SSB. QSL via DL7DF. Pilot stations are: Floyd/N5FG and Bernd/DF3CB.

### ZM8, KERMADEC ISLANDS

Ron, ZL1AMO, informs/reminds OPDX readers that Jacky, ZL3CW, will be leaving for Kermadec on October 7th. He should be active about October 10-18th from Raoul Island. This is not a DXpedition. Jacky will be there doing some maintenance on the communication gear (repeaters etc) for the Department of Conservation. He will be active as work permits. QSL this operation, ZM8CW, to Ron, ZL1AMO.

*(continued on page 11)*

## Other DX Rumors and News...cont'd

### VK9C & VK9X, COCOS KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND (Reminder)

Gwen, VK3DYL, informs OPDX that there seems to be some confusion about the dates of the YLs' upcoming VK9XYL and VK9CYL DXpedition. They will be on Christmas Island (**OC-002**) as VK9XYL, October 13-27th, and on Cocos Keeling Islands (**OC-003**) as VK9CYL, October 27th to November 10th. QSL via VK3DYL: Gwen Tilson, 3 Gould Court, Mt. Waverley, Victoria, 3149 Australia. For direct cards, if you enclose old style IRCs, insufficient postage or no SAE, your cards will be returned via the Bureau. No e-QSLs will be accepted.

### XU, CAMBODIA

Shirow, JF6DEA/KE1EO, will be back on the air from Cambodia signing XU7ACD from October 3-6th (Local time). Activity will be on 40-10 meters and also 6 meters.

### YI, IRAQ

Stefan, OM3JW, father and QSL Manager for Mike, YI/OM2DX, informs OPDX that last week his son received a new callsign, YI9X. You should have heard his first activity with his new callsign during the RTTY Contest this past weekend. QSL via OM3JW.

### YJ0, VANUATU (Possibly H40)

Early last week we received word that Mike, KM9D, and his girlfriend Jan, KF4TUG, were anchored at Tegua Island in the Torres Island Group (**OC-110**), northern Vanuatu. Mike was expected to be active as YJ0AMY with no mention of his planned bands of activity. However, there were no QSNs reported over past week. Also, Vanikolo Island (**OC-163**) in the Solomon Islands, Santa Cruz Group (H40 - Temotu Province) which is only about 100 km north of their position was also mentioned. Be listening. You never know. QSL via OM2SA.

73, Frank **W6DSQ**

## DXer of the Year Award To Be Presented

At our Christmas Party on December 9, the "DXer of the Year" Award for 2003 will be presented. The citation on the award will read:

"Presented to the NADXC member whose individual achievements in the field of DXing during the year have represented the most significant personal accomplishments and the most positive reflection on NADXC and the activity of DXing."

The Board of Directors has agreed upon the following selection criteria for the award, the recipient of which will be determined by a vote of the membership.

"In selecting the recipient of this award, consideration should be given to the context in which the recipient's achievements were made; with experience, prior success, or operating resources being neither barriers nor prerequisites. Rather, the relative significance of the achievements and the recipient's skill, determination, and commitment, applied in accordance with

the Amateur's Code, should be the primary determinants.

Achievements need not be limited to operating successes, and may include a variety of other activities. For example, research, technical publication, national or international recognition, and participation in activities both inside and outside NADXC are, among others, within the scope of this award, provided the other criteria detailed above are met."

Ballots will be provided to each regular member in attendance at the November 11 meeting, and each member present will be able to vote for up to three members, in order of preference. The winner will be determined from the vote and the award will be presented in December. Start thinking now about your choice for "DXer of the Year" and please plan to attend the November meeting so you can cast your vote.

## Good Grief . . . What a Mess!!

If anyone wanted a rip roarin' headache, a good case of the "mads," or maybe just a plain ol' belly laugh, any or all of those were available by listening to the pileups created by the recent 3CØV DXpedition operating from Annobon Island. What you got depended on how long it took you to work them, or whether you worked them at all. In any case, there was something for everybody. It was gosh-awful. Thinking about it, the only time I've observed more obnoxious demonstrations of self-imposed mayhem was watching pro wrestling on TV! (At least this time there were no big, beefy, bald-headed, sweaty bodies flying around.)

Instead there have been the inexperienced, uninformed, or perhaps just plain brainless operators who would show up on 3CØV's transmit frequency and call repeatedly until the "Up" police jumped on them. If they didn't react fast enough, or weren't effective enough, then came the "Lid" blasters. Finally, if all else failed, a large flock of enforcers arrived, proclaiming "Split," "Jerk," "Stupid," "Shut Up," "Idiot," "You @&\*?#?%\*," and other niceties. One offending station was even accused of being the product of dubious ancestry. My, my, my - where was Miss Manners when we really needed her? Maybe the DX Doctor should have prescribed a stiff dose of operating courtesy to both the offenders and the offendees.

Perhaps contributing to the situation was the fact that 3CØV has been operating split on every band, but I haven't been able to identify any listening pattern they were using. First 5-up, then 15-up, then 8-up, etc., etc. It has been as irregular as my EKG pattern for heaven sakes!

Unfortunately, there have been no referees around to sort things out and working 3CØV seems to be either a matter of luck or being the "last man standing" in the pileups! Sadly, I have not had any luck and have not yet been one of those left standing. After numerous (and I do mean numerous) attempts to communicate with the source of all that chaos, I have so far come away with no success . . . only a wounded ego, a hoarse voice, and a sore wrist. What a bummer. The lesson learned is that sometimes even operating skill and cunning cannot overcome everything else. Still, it has been an exciting experience, and I'll keep trying until 3CØV goes QRT. If I'm still unsuccessful, I'll be back again when some other "rare one" appears on the air. As Scarlett said at the end of GWTW, "After all, tomorrow is another day." CUL.

Dexter the DXer

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## NADXC Christmas Party Has a New Location

Though it's still a couple of months away, our 2003 Christmas party (scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 9) will be here before we know it. In an effort to increase member attendance at this year's event, a decision has been made to change the location from the Redstone Officers & Civilians Club to Greenbrier Bar-B-Cue on I-565. The Greenbrier site has some clear advantages over the Redstone Arsenal site: it has much more convenient access (no security barriers), it's a more informal atmosphere, there will be no tickets to buy in advance, and it's less expensive. We have reserved a private room at Greenbrier that will accommo-

date up to 70 people, just to give us plenty of space. As we get closer to the December 9 date, we'll be passing along more information about the party, but please mark your calendars now for that date. Installation of our 2004 officers and directors and presentation of awards will be the primary business of the evening, with the main objective being to have a good time.

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## BQ9P Pratas Island DXpedition 2003

CTARL (Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League) just received official documents today (landing permission by Ministry of Defense) and finally got everything in order.

The BQ9P Pratas Island expedition will taking place on **Oct 7 to 16**, we expect starting on air at 10:00Z on Oct 07 and QRT at 01:00Z on Oct 16. and at least two antennas to setup before dark in the first day and will setup 5 stations in total. 6-160m + WARC bands, CW/SSB/RTTY/SSTV/PSK31. QRG for most DX windows (+/- QRM).

### Operators:

**BV4FH, BV3FG, BV3BW, JI6KVR, DL3DXX, DK7YY, OE1WHC, ZL4PO, N2OO**

Pilot stations you can contact:

Lee ZL2AL ZL/VK: leejen@paradise.net.nz

Floyd, N5FG USA: n5fg@mdxa.org

Frank AH0W/W7 West Coast: franxmith@att.net



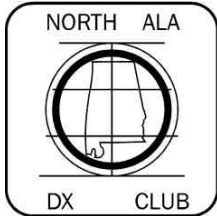
Best Times for BQ9P to North America, Japan, and Europe - Centered on October 12, 2003 by **K9LA 9/28/03:**

Target	160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m
NA West Coast	0949-1409	0830-1630	07-18	07-19	22-04	22-03	23-02	23-00	00
NA Midwest	0949-1236	0830-1400	07-18	11-20	15-02	22-01	23-00	23	23
NA East Coast	0949-1108	0900-1230	09-14	08-17	13-00	14-16	15	15	15 21-22
				20-23	23-00	23:00	23		
JA	0949-2059	0700-2330	all day	all day	all day	22-15	23-12	00-10	00-09
Western EU	1712-2211	1430-2330	12-00	13-01	06-18	06-16	07-13	08-11	10
Northern EU	1555-2211	1130-2330	10-01	10-20	04-17	06-15	07-12	09-10	10
Eastern EU	1549-2211	1230-0000	12-01	12-01	03-18	05-16	06-13	07-12	09-10
Southern EU	1629-2211	1500-2330	14-00	13-01	06-20	05-18	06-13	07-12	08-11

Low bands to NA: The path to the West Coast is in darkness for about 4 hours, to the Midwest about 2 and a half hours, and to the East Coast about an hour and a half. This is good, but the paths to the Midwest and the East Coast go through the auroral zone. This will probably be a problem because of where we are Cycle 23 (the first couple years of the descent have the most disturbances to the ionosphere due to geomagnetic activity). But you have to try ? Good luck!

# A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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We're on the  
Web:  
[www.nadxc.org](http://www.nadxc.org)

**How to Join:** Come to a club meeting; or send in application by mail  
(form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org)); or call Nancy Morris at (256)859-8920

## Editor's Soapbox

Seems like it was only a week or so when the LongPath staff started getting things together for the September issue. Wow, time sure flies nowadays. It is definitely flying for me, as CQWW is fast approaching and I have no HF antenna up. I moved a little over a month ago and am just now starting to crawl out from underneath the boxes of stuff strewn about and have not had a chance to get anything up to punch a signal through the ether. Hopefully, that will change over the next week or so, with the good weather forecasted.

Speaking of CQWW, Tim Pearson's program on contest logging programs couldn't come at a more opportune time for us. There are many logging programs out there and maybe Tim's program will lead us toward picking the best one. I have only used a couple of contest logging programs, which were DOS based, and am interested in hearing about the new stuff that's out there.

If you are new to DXing and are looking for an opportunity to snag some new ones, make sure you operate during the CQWW contest. Many entities that are not often heard

suddenly appear during the contest. I remember a couple of years ago working a couple of all time new ones, VK9NS and JT1CO, during CQWW. Although, when Jim, VK9NS, and I started to chat for a few moments I could feel the tension in the ether building, as the pileup was in a holding pattern. That old time saying, "it's who ya know..." really does pay off when working DX.

Since, I do not have an antenna up yet I did not experience what Dexter the DXer did during the 3CØV, but can truly empathize with him, as I am sure most of us can.

By the way Tim still needs pictures of members' shacks for his program next month. This should be real interesting and give us a chance to see what some folks are using to work all that DX out there.

Well, I've just about run out of room here, so I will cut the rambling and get the LongPath uploaded now.

73, Jared Cassidy, **KQ4VT**